



Sen. Joyce Mulliken's

UPDATE FROM OLYMPIA

6/06/03

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Committee Assignments

Land Use & Planning (Chair)
Highways & Transportation
Higher Education
Commerce & Trade

Central Washington and the Boeing 7E7:

Rumors that Moses Lake is being considered for production of the new Boeing 7E7 were confirmed this week in The Seattle Times.

Boeing has issued a list of key criteria for its new production site at:
<http://www.boeing.com/commercial/7e7/criteria.pdf>

And I'm proud to say Moses Lake can meet all those criteria.

State leaders are working together to bring production of the Boeing 7E7— and the roughly 1,200 direct jobs that go with it — to Washington.

With stiff competition from across the country, Washington needs to provide the most attractive package possible to keep those jobs in Washington— no matter where the final site may be.

Dear Friends,

Last night, the state Legislature wrapped up the bulk of its work for the first special session of the 2003 Legislature. In the last two days, we've passed a sensible two-year state operating budget that doesn't raise taxes as well as a capital construction budget to improve our state's infrastructure and create jobs.

I'd like to start off by telling you how pleased I am with the budget compromise our negotiators were able to reach.

Like many states around our nation, Washington is suffering the effects of a national recession, a fragile agricultural economy, and the dot-com bubble burst.

Coming into the 2003 session, we faced a \$2.6 billion shortfall—the largest deficit in state history—and many people thought we could not leave Olympia without a tax increase. Now six months later, we've approved a budget that doesn't raise taxes and avoids draconian cuts to our most vulnerable citizens.

The compromise budget has several cost-saving features, including:

- Capping enrollments in the state's Basic Health Plan at 100,000. No enrollees will be cut; the targeted number will be met through attrition;
- Reducing the number of state employees by 1,150, mostly through attrition;
- No raises for state employees -- and a 16 percent employee contribution for their health-care costs.

But this budget isn't all about cuts. We were able to give beginning teachers a raise so by the end of 2004, no teacher in our state will make less than \$30,000. We *increased* funding for class sizes from \$212 to \$254 per student, and *all of our parks will stay open* so families and visitors can enjoy central Washington. Furthermore, our rural hospitals will be held harmless for medical indigent costs, which I know is very important to our district. Finally, our Region 2 Department of Fish and Wildlife office will remain open in Ephrata.

While the operating budget focuses on the broad operation of state government, the capital construction budget includes some items of specific interest to Central Washington:

- \$600,000 for the CWU/Moses Lake Higher Education Center;
- \$181,816 for heritage capital projects in the City of Roslyn;
- \$12.6 million for phase II construction of the Music Education Facility at Central Washington University; and
- \$1 million for the Iron Horse Trail.

Now, all that remains to be resolved before the end of this first special session on Tuesday are a few critical reforms to our state's unemployment insurance and worker's compensation programs to help improve the business climate for our small businesses and to encourage Boeing to choose Washington for production of its new 7E7 (see box).

In Your Service,

Sen. Joyce Mulliken, 13th Legislative District